

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 H-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-01

CEA-01 EUR-12 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /081 W

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R 131457Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3120

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD ENRG XA

SUBJECT: U.S. COMPANY INVOLVEMENT IN CUNENE RIVER PROJECT

REF: STATE 270899

1. I TALKED ON DECEMBER 13 WITH THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING SERVICES AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, WHO SAID THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE NO AMERICAN INVESTMENT OR TECHNICAL SERVICES HAVE BEEN USED TO DATE IN THE CUNENE PROJECT. HE SAID SOME AMERICAN EQUIPMENT MAY BE PURCHASED LOCALLY THROUGH THE CONTRACTORS, WHO ARE PORTUGUESE/ ANGOLAN. ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTOR, ONLY TWO PROJECTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED: THE GOVE WATER STORAGE DAM, WHICH THE SOUTH AFRICANS FINANCED, AND ONE-HALF OF THE COST OF WHICH THE PORTUGUESE ARE TO PAY WITH WATER AND ELECTRICITY FROM THE RUACANA AND CALUEQUE PROJECTS; AND THE RUACANA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT WHICH WAS PAID FOR BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS AND BUILT BY A PORTUGUESE CONTRACTOR. THE CALUEQUE IRRIGATION PROJECT IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY A

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PORTUGUESE CONTRACTOR AND WILL BE PAID FOR BY SOUTH AFRICA.

2. THE DIRECTOR TOLD ME THAT AT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN EUROPE ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO THE POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA (MPLA) OBJECTED TO THE PORTUGUESE/SOUTH AFRICAN JOINT PROJECTS TO HARNESS AND UTILIZE THE WATERS OF THE CUNENE. MPLA CLAIMED THAT SOUTH AFRICA'S CONTROL OVER THE ELECTRICITY AND IRRIGATION WATER WOULD ENSURE CONTINUED WHITE DOMINATION IN SOUTHWEST AFRICA. NOW THAT ANGOLA'S LIBERATION GROUPS ARE ABOUT TO TAKE OVER THE COUNTRY, THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HERE MAY PAY SOUTH AFRICA CASH FOR THE REMAINING BALANCE OF THE DEBT ON GOVS TO HEAD OFF A POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL DISPUTE FOR THE NEW NATION. THE DIRECTOR DID NOW KNOW HOW MUCH MONEY WOULD BE INVOLVED.

3. THE JOINT PROJECTS WERE CARRIED FORWARD WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A 1926 TREATY BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND SOUTH AFRICA THAT PROVIDES FOR SHARING THE WATERS OF THE CUNENE EQUALLY. IT SEEMS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT RUACANA AND CALUEQUE WILL BE ISSUES BETWEEN ANGOLA AND SOUTH AFRICA UNTIL NAMIBIA GAINS ITS INDEPENDENCE.
KILLORAN

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